

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-10 have been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are patentable over the above cited rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,475,624 to *Laszlo*.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the following passage:

at least one sling ~~or wrap of~~ stretchable material...

It is respectfully submitted that *Laslo* does not disclose a stretchable sling.

For example, column 2 of *Laslo* includes the following passage:

“ As shown, the weave of the band 22 is arranged so the band is unstretchable longitudinally and will assume a smooth curved sling-like disposition between its mid-point 23 and its securing points at the buttons 20 and 24...”

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and dependent claims 11-13 which depend from claim 1 are allowable as well. New independent claims 14-19 have also been added. These claims also include a stretchable material as well. Therefore, for the above-identified reasons, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as well. It is believed that no additional fee is due. However, if an additional fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Collard & Roe, P.C.'s deposit account under no. 03-2468 for any additional fee or to credit the account with any over payment.

Early allowance of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

/William Collard/
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